THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMRUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Excise duty on packed tea

1467. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to withdraw excise duty on the packed food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have withdrawan the excise duty on packed tea; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes.

(d) Central excise duty on packed tea has been exempted with effect from 28.2.1999 as part of the Budget for 1999-2000 presented in the Lok Sabha on 27.2.1999.

Commitments of assistance by World Bank and Asian Development Bank

1468. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the commitments of fresh assistance by the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank during the current financial year;

(b) how do these commitments compare with commitments during 1997-98; and

(c) what are the expectations for 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The commitment by the World Bank Group during the current bank fiscal year (ending June 1999) is expected to be US $ 2.1 billion for 12 projects excluding the four projects mentioned at Part (b) of the answer. The commitment by Asian Development Bank during 1998-99 was US $ 250 million.

(b) The commitment by the World Bank Group during the bank fiscal year 1997-98 (ending June 1998) was US $ 2.14 billion for 11 projects. In addition four projects for US $ 1.2 billion were negotiated but are yet to be approved by the World Bank. The commitment by Asian Development Bank during 1997-98 was US $ 563 million.

(c) For the World Bank, a similar level of commitment is expected for the bank fiscal year 1999-2000. As regards Asian Development Bank, lending programme of the Bank for 1999-2000 will be finalised after the visit of the Bank's Country Programming Mission to India.

Assistance to steel industry by the Financial Institutions

1469. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be plased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has issued any instructions to the public sector financial institutions regarding assistance to the steel industry;

(b) if so, what are the details of these instructions; and

(c) what is the justificaiton thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The financial institutions (FIs) sanction assistance to industry based on prudential norms and financial assessment of the proposals. No instructions are

issued by the Government to FIs for assistance to any industrial sector. FIs take lending decisions on their own commercial considerations.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Plans to Tackle Industrial Recession

1470. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the sector of the Industry which is suffering most from recession; and

(b) whether Government have any plans to tackle the recession?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) (a) In the current year, industrial decleration has been most pronounced in mining and manufacturing sectors.

(b) The Government has taken several steps to revive industry and rejuvenate corporate growth. These include delicensing and dereserving of key industries, disinvestment in select PSEs, liberalising foreign investment norms, special package for the SSI sector, permitting buyback of shares etc. The Union Budget (1999-2000) has announced far-reaching measures for providing a fillip to housing and SSI sectors and has given special emphasis to expenditure management.

Retardation in Industrial Growth

1471. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the last budget promised a market increase in public investments to boost domestic demand;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the recession is still continuing and there is no boost in domestic demand more so in industrial sector; and

(c) what are the major reasons for significant slow down in industrial growth and infrastructure sector?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) In the Union Budget 1998-99, capital expenditure was increased by 9 per cent to Rs. 57865 (BE) from Rs. 53045 crore in 1997-98 (RE). The plan outlay for key infrastructure sectors like energy, transport and communications was increased by 35 per cent from Rs. 45,252 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 61,146 crore in 1998-99.

(b) and (c) After registering a growth of 6.6 per cent in 1997-98, industry has recorded 3.5 per cent growth in the current year (April-December). The low industrial growth can be attributed to: falling export growth due to slump in world trade, reduced rural demand due to low agricultural output in 1997-98, price competition from imports in certain key industries low new investment by corporate sector, continuing sluggishness in captial markets and infrastructural bottlenecks.

औद्योगिक तथा वित्तीय पुनर्निर्माण बोर्ड को सुपुर्द किये गये मामले

1472. **श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालियाः**
श्री कपिल सिब्बलः

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या यह सच है गत वर्ष में उद्योगों में अधिक मात्रा में रुग्णता आने के कारण उन पर विचार हेतु औद्योगिक तथा वित्तीय पुनर्निर्माण बोर्ड को भेजा गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस प्रकार के मामलों की कुल संख्या कितनी है; और

(ग) इसमें कितने मामले सरकारी क्षेत्र से और कितने मामले गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र से संबंधित हैं?

वित्त मंत्रालय (बैंकिंग, राजस्व तथा बीमा) में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कादम्बूर एम० आर० जनार्दनन): (क) से (ग) औद्योगिक और वित्तीय पुनर्निर्माण बोर्ड (बाइफर) ने सूचित किया है कि वर्ष 1998 (1.1.98 से 31.12.98 तक) के दौरान रुग्ण औद्योगिक कम्पनियों से 453 सन्दर्भ प्राप्त हुए थे। इनमें से 370 रुग्ण औद्योगिक कम्पनियों को रुग्ण औद्योगिक कम्पनी (विशेष उपबंध) अधिनियम, 1985 (एस आई सी ए) के उपबंधों के अन्तर्गत बाइफर के पास पंजीकृत किया गया